

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1 of the specification as follows:

One of the advantages of the continuous cross-channel interleaving method of the present invention is improved error concealment at the receivers during times of broadcast signal blockage. As discussed above with reference to Fig. 4, a signal blockage of five consecutive frames, for example, in a time diversity system causes an audio mute interval (e.g., interval 74). By contrast, the same blockage in a system using the interleaving method of the present invention allows the source bit stream to be recovered using audio error concealment algorithms. As shown in Fig. 7, the first satellite channel 80 is blocked altogether (e.g., obstructed by terrain), and the cross-channel interleaved second satellite channel 82 is momentarily blocked for five frames (e.g., frames 13, 24, 15, 26 and 17), by way of an example. Following reception and reordering of the second satellite channel, the recovered data stream 86 contains only single frame outages, as opposed to the outage of five frames shown in Fig. [[6]]4. The single frame outages are short enough to apply audio error concealment algorithms. The operation of the audio error concealment algorithms can be further enhanced by reducing the frame length and thereby reducing the concealment intervals. Alternatively, audio signals in the source bit stream can be split into two half-bit rate data streams. For example, the odd and even frames can carry respective ones of the two half-bit rate audio streams. Thus, if a frame can carry a 64 kilobit per second (kbps) audio channel, and satellite signal blockage occurs, then at least 32 kbps or half-bit rate audio is available during the service outage.